



Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioner Taub:

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, the Franciscan Sisters rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. We operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and mission.

As women religious, committed to Gospel values and the Franciscan way of life, we serve people who are poor and on the margins of society. Our work and ministries provide basic needs, foster social justice, enhance spiritual life and inspire personal dignity.

We promote our mission and ministries through mailings and newsletters. Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have an impact on our ability to reach out people who are hungry and without permanent shelter, to support immigrants, refugees and migrant workers, to teach English as a second language, to provide education for girls seeking a high school education, and to provide pastoral and spiritual care.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Sister Beatrice Eichten
Community Minister/President

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